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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 005778

SIPDIS

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

STATE FOR A/S IO HOLMES, A/S PRM DEWEY, IO/EDA WINNICK  
USAID FOR AA/DCHA WINTER, D/DCHA/FFP LANDIS, DCHA/PPE LYNCH  
NSC FOR JDWORKEN  
USDA/FAS FOR MCHAMBLISS/RTILSWORTH  
USUN NEW YORK FOR CSERWER  
NAIROBI FOR REDSO  
TOKYO FOR USAID REP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EU](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#) [EUEAID](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#) [EUEAID](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#)  
SUBJECT: WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL OF PROTRACTED RELIEF  
AND RECOVERY OPERATION (PRRO) FOR WEST AFRICA COASTAL REGION  
- USD 56.81 MILLION

REF: (A) ROME 5308

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SUMMARY  
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1. AT ITS THIRD REGULAR SESSION (OCTOBER 21-25), THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVED A PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION (PRRO) FOR THE WEST AFRICA COASTAL REGION - ONE YEAR (JANUARY- DECEMBER 2003), VALUED AT USD 56.81 MILLION, TO ASSIST 789,430 (INCLUDING 50,000 CONTINGENCY CASELOAD) BENEFICIARIES/ANNUM. THE WEST AFRICA COASTAL REGION HAS BEEN IN A STATE OF DEEP CRISIS FOR MANY YEARS. LIBERIA IS ONCE AGAIN AT THE EPICENTRE OF A CONFLICT  
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THAT COULD CONTINUE TO SPREAD TO THE REGION. THE CURRENT CRISIS IN COTE D'IVOIRE HAS ALREADY CAUSED MAJOR INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS WITHIN THE COUNTRY (180,000 PEOPLE SINCE 19 SEPTEMBER 2002) AND MAY RESULT IN EVEN LARGER POPULATION DISPLACEMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WEST AFRICAN REGION, EFFECTIVELY EXPANDING THE THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY WELL BEYOND COTE D'IVOIRE. END SUMMARY.

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BACKGROUND  
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2. WITH NO SUSTAINABLE POLITICAL SOLUTION IN SIGHT IN LIBERIA, THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION THERE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN CRITICAL THROUGH 2003 AND THE PROSPECTS FOR RECOVERY IN NEIGHBORING GUINEA AND SIERRA LEONE ARE LIKELY TO SUFFER AS A RESULT.

3. SIGNIFICANT NEW INFLUXES OF LIBERIAN REFUGEES HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN SIERRA LEONE, GUINEA AND COTE D'IVOIRE (UP TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, BEFORE THE CRISIS), DUE TO THE INTENSIFICATION OF CONFLICT IN LIBERIA, WHICH HAS CREATED A NEW POPULATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (135,300 AS OF SEPTEMBER 2002). MOREOVER, DEPENDING ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE CURRENT CRISIS IN COTE D'IVOIRE, POPULATION INFLUXES IN GUINEA AND LIBERIA ARE TO BE EXPECTED.

4. THE CURRENT PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY (PRRO) OPERATION (10064.0) IS FACING A SHORTFALL OF 12,688 MT, OR 12 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL REQUIREMENTS. AS THE EARLY RESPONSE MECHANISMS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS REGIONAL OPERATION HAVE  
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BEEN ACTIVATED TO RESPOND TO URGENT FOOD NEEDS IN COTE D'IVOIRE (INCLUDING THE USE OF WFP AIRCRAFT BASED IN CONAKRY TO AIRLIFT HIGH-ENERGY BISCUITS TO YAMOUSSOUKRO), CONTRIBUTIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO REPLENISH THE PIPELINE OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH "LOANED" RESOURCES TO COTE D'IVOIRE.

5. SHORTFALLS WILL BECOME PARTICULARLY CRITICAL AT THE BEGINNING OF 2003, WHEN THE NEW PRRO WILL START. LIBERIA WILL REPORTEDLY FACE SHORTFALLS FOR MOST OF THE COMMODITIES AS EARLY AS JANUARY 2003. GUINEA WILL LACK CEREALS, PULSES AND OIL FROM MARCH 2003 ON. SIERRA LEONE WILL FACE A BREAK IN ITS PIPELINE IN EARLY 2003, AS REQUIREMENTS ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE DUE TO THE CURRENT TREND IN THE INFLUX OF LIBERIAN REFUGEES (75,000 ESTIMATED AT THE END OF 2002). AS FOR COTE D'IVOIRE, REINTEGRATED IN THE REGIONAL OPERATION AS OF JANUARY 2003, FOOD COMMODITIES ARE URGENTLY NEEDED INTER ALIA TO TAKE CARE OF THE CASELOAD OF LIBERIAN REFUGEES IN NICLA.

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WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL OF WEST AFRICA COASTAL PRRO  
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ACTION IO-00

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00  
WHA-00 SRPP-00 EAP-00 EB-00 EUR-00 E-00 UTE-00  
TEDE-00 INR-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OES-00 OIC-02 OMB-01  
SSO-00 STR-00 TEST-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 PRM-00 SAS-00  
/003W

-----107D47 292059Z /38

P 291511Z NOV 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7115  
INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USDA FAS WASHDC 2441  
USEU BRUSSELS 2971

USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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16. THE BOARD APPROVED THIS PRRO FOR ONE YEAR (JANUARY  
-DECEMBER 2003), VALUED AT USD 56.81 MILLION, TO ASSIST  
789,430 BENEFICIARIES (INCLUDING 50,000 CONTINGENCY  
CASELOAD). THE BOARD AGREED THAT THIS PROGRAMMING INSTRUMENT  
WILL PERMIT WFP TO RESPOND EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO  
THE COMPLEX NATURE OF THIS OPERATION. SIMPLY, THE CONTINUOUS  
INSTABILITY OF THE REGION REQUIRES MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN  
THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, WHERE WFP HAS TO FREQUENTLY  
RESPOND TO UNEXPECTED MASS MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE.

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US DELEGATION INTERVENTION  
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17. USDEL TOOK NOTE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NON-FOOD ITEMS  
(NFIS) IN ANY REFUGEE/IDP OPERATION AND ENCOURAGED WFP TO  
WORK CLOSELY WITH UNHCR TO ENSURE THAT THESE ITEMS ARE BEING  
PROVIDED BY THE PROPER U.N. AGENCY, SO THAT HIGH-VALUED FOOD  
COMMODITIES ARE NOT BARTERED FOR NFIS. THIS, AS WELL AS  
POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING (THAT CONSTITUTE PART OF THE  
REVISED WFP/UNHCR MOU), ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT REQUIRE  
CONSTANT VIGILANCE AND DEDICATION BETWEEN THE TWO UN  
AGENCIES. USDEL NOTED WFP'S EFFORTS TO BEGIN POST-  
DISTRIBUTION MONITORING IN MANY OF ITS OPERATIONS IN WEST  
AFRICA, BUT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SUCH MONITORING IS STILL  
MISSING FROM PARTICULAR REFUGEE AND IDP OPERATIONS AND ASKED  
THAT THIS BE PROMPTLY RECTIFIED.

18. USDEL FURTHER NOTED THAT ON A RECENT MISSION TO GUINEA  
AND LIBERIA, A USAID TEAM FOUND DELAYS AND PROBLEMS WITH  
REGISTRATION OF LIBERIAN REFUGEES IN GUINEA AND OF IDPS IN  
LIBERIA. IN EACH CASE, THE WFP TEAM IS QUITE AWARE OF THE  
PROBLEMS AND WORKING TO RESOLVE THEM, BUT USDEL HIGHLIGHTED  
THE IMPORTANCE OF A COMPETENT REGISTRATION PROCESS AS A  
PREREQUISITE TO A DISCIPLINED FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

19. MOREOVER, USDEL REQUESTED THAT THE RATION SIZE FOR IDPS

IN LIBERIA BE ASSESSED TO ENSURE THAT THE BASIS FOR THE  
DISTINCTION BETWEEN 2,100 KILOCALORIES (KC) AND 1,800 KC IS  
SOUND. WE EXPECTED THAT THE RESULTS FROM THE UPCOMING FOOD  
SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF THE REFUGEES IN GUINEA WOULD ALLOW  
FOR A DECREASE IN RATIONS, INSOFAS AS REFUGEES HAVE HEARTILY  
ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

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10. FINALLY, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE USAID MISSION TO  
GUINEA OBSERVED THE FRUITS OF FAO/WFP COLLABORATION IN AND  
AROUND THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN ALBADARIAH IN THE FOREST REGION  
(AS FUNDED BY STATE/PRM). AS A RESULT OF THIS INVESTMENT,  
THE SIERRA LEONEAN REFUGEES WILL BE RETURNING HOME WITH A  
SIGNIFICANT HARVEST. WE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION IN WITNESSING  
THE TWO AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER ON A STRATEGY FOR FOOD  
SECURITY IN SIERRA LEONE AND USDEL STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THE  
CONTINUATION OF THESE LINKAGES.

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COMMENT  
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11. USMISSION SEES A CONTINUING VITAL ROLE FOR WFP AND ITS  
UN SISTER AGENCIES IN RESPONDING TO THE CONTINUING CRISIS IN  
THE WEST AFRICA COASTAL REGION. CLEARLY, THE DETERIORATION  
OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN NORTHERN LIBERIA, COUPLED WITH  
THE RECENT SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS IN COTE D'IVOIRE, WILL  
FURTHER WEAKEN THE ALREADY DEVASTATED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE REGION. THE CURRENT CRISIS IN COTE  
D'IVOIRE HAS ALREADY CAUSED MAJOR INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS  
WITHIN THE COUNTRY (180,000 PEOPLE SINCE 19 SEPTEMBER 2002)

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WHA-00 SRPP-00 EAP-00 EB-00 EUR-00 E-00 UTE-00  
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AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USDA FAS WASHDC 2442  
USEU BRUSSELS 2972

USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
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AND MAY RESULT IN EVEN LARGER POPULATION DISPLACEMENTS IN  
OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WEST AFRICAN REGION, EFFECTIVELY  
EXPANDING THE THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY WELL BEYOND COTE  
D'IVOIRE. 2003 WILL ONCE AGAIN ENGAGE THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY IN REACHING OUT TO SAVE LIVES. HALL

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